Preparing a Delineation Report

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Goals:

- Fully describe the location and environmental conditions at the field site
- Describe and document the procedures applied
- Portray the data in an organized and understandable format

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CAUTION!

Take care in compiling every delineation report as the ultimate use of the information is uncertain (e.g., enforcement action, permit compliance, permit elevation)

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Be thorough!

- Field work is expensive. The quality of the report should reflect the time and cost involved in preparing for and carrying out the on-site investigation.
- The report should stand on its own. A colleague should be able to replicate your results with the information contained in your report.

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Parts of a typical delineation report

- Narrative
- Vicinity Map
- Wetland map with sample points
- Field data forms
- Additional supporting documentation

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Narrative:

- Purpose of the delineation (e.g., permit application, enforcement action)
- Site location, ownership, and description (topography, vegetation, water features)
- Personnel involved
- Dates of field work

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Narrative (cont.):

- Methods used (simply cite the appropriate sections of the Corps Manual, but describe any deviations from standard methods)
- Supporting materials used:
  - Plant list
  - Soil survey report
  - Hydric soil list
  - Aerial photography
  - USGS topo map
  - NWI map
  - NTCHS field indicators
  - etc.

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Narrative (cont.):

- Important findings:
  - Kinds and locations of any wetlands present
  - Rationale for wetland boundary locations based on vegetation, soils, and hydrologic conditions
- Summary and conclusions

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Wetland Map

- Property and project boundaries
- North arrow and approximate scale
- Landmarks (e.g., structures, fences, roads, etc.)
- Sampling locations and plot identifiers
- Photo locations and orientation (cross-referenced with photo log)
- Wetland boundaries (survey or GPS, if needed)

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Field Data Forms

- Forms meet minimum data requirements; fill them out completely
- Draw lines through spaces left blank
- Include additional information (e.g., current and antecedent weather conditions, plant abundance measures, non-dominant species, photo numbers, GPS coordinates)

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Additional Supporting Documentatio

- Site locator map (portion of a highway map or gazetteer)
- On-site photos and photo log (place a photo log placard in the camera view giving the site name, photo number, date, and location/direction)
- Aerial photos used (source, date flown, scale, film type)
- Maps (USGS topo, NWI, soils, floodplain, etc.)

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Final Thoughts

- Tailor your procedures and your report to suit the complexity of the site and the purpose of the delineation
- In all cases, ensure that you meet at least the minimum requirements for documentation of wetland boundaries